

REMARKS

Claims 1-27 are pending in this application. Claims 17, 18, and 21 stand rejected, and claims 19, 20, and 22-24 are objected to and claims 1-16 are withdrawn from consideration. Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 19, 20, and 22-24. By this Amendment, claims 17, 19, 20, and 22-24 have been amended and new claim 27 has been added. No new matter has been added. The amendments made to the claims do not alter the scope of these claims, nor have these amendments been made to define over the prior art. Rather, the amendments to the claims have been made for cosmetic reasons to improve the form thereof. In light of the amendments and remarks set forth below, Applicant respectfully submits that each of the pending claims is in immediate condition for allowance.

Paragraph 2 of the Office Action objects to the specification. Applicant has amended the title. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection to the specification.

The Office Action objects to Figures 17, 18, and 19A-19D. Applicant submits herewith replacement sheets designating those Figures as prior art. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of this objection.

Claims 17, 18, and 21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,083,837 ("Millet") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,847,103 ("Perez"). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

To establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness, there must be some suggestion or motivation, either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art, to modify a reference or combine references to arrive at the claimed subject matter. The prior art references must also

teach or suggest all the limitations of the claim in question. See, M.P.E.P. § 706.02(j). A reference can only be used for what it clearly discloses or suggests. See, In re Hummer, 113 U.S.P.Q. 66 (C.C.P.A. 1957); In re Stencel, 4 U.S.P.Q.2d 1071, 1073 (Fed. Cir. 1987). Here, the references, whether taken individually or in combination, do not disclose or suggest the invention claimed by the Applicant.

Among the limitations of independent claim 17 not present in the cited reference is the outer frame being smaller than the size of the semiconductor chip and the plurality of electrodes arranged inside the outer frame.

The Examiner's primary reference, Millet, is directed to a method of manufacturing a lead frame. There is no relationship given between the size and orientation of the lead frame with respect to the integrated circuit to which the lead frame will be attached. Further, the Examiner then includes Perez to disclose the remainder of the elements not claimed. However, Applicant notes that Perez does not disclose the explicitly recited limitation discussed above. As shown in Figure 7 of Perez, the die pad 22 is larger than the semiconductor die 56. Thus, Perez also fails to disclose the explicitly recited limitation with the lead frame being smaller than the size of the chip. Thus, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 17, 18, and 21 are allowable over the cited references.

Applicants note that new claim 25 explicitly recites the limitation that the outer frame is smaller than the size of a chip. This feature is not shown in any of the references. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that new claim 25 is also allowable over the art of record.

Applicant has responded to all of the rejections and objections recited in the Office Action. Reconsideration and a Notice of Allowance for all of the pending claims are therefore respectfully requested.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejection of the claims and to pass this application to issue.

If the Examiner believes an interview would be of assistance, the Examiner is welcome to contact the undersigned at the number listed below.

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Respectfully submitted,

By 

Ian R. Blum

Registration No.: 42,336
DICKSTEIN SHAPIRO LLP
1177 Avenue of the Americas
New York, New York 10036-2714
(212) 277-6500
Attorney for Applicant

IRB/mgs
Attachment Figures 17, 18, and 19A-19D

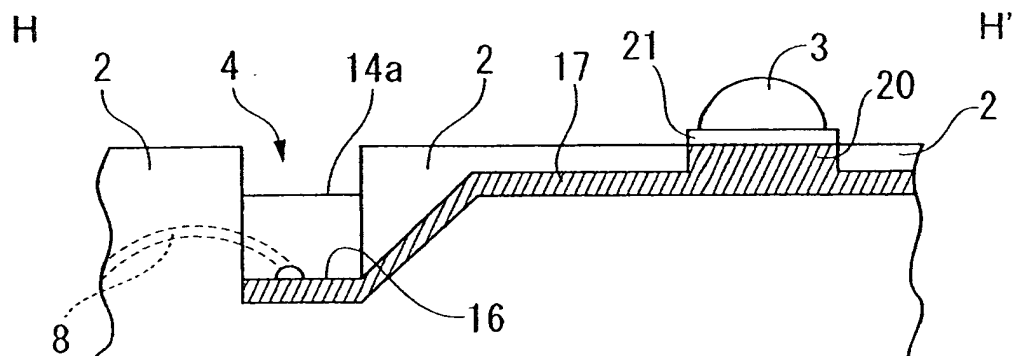
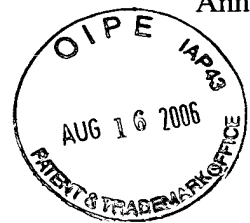


FIG. 16

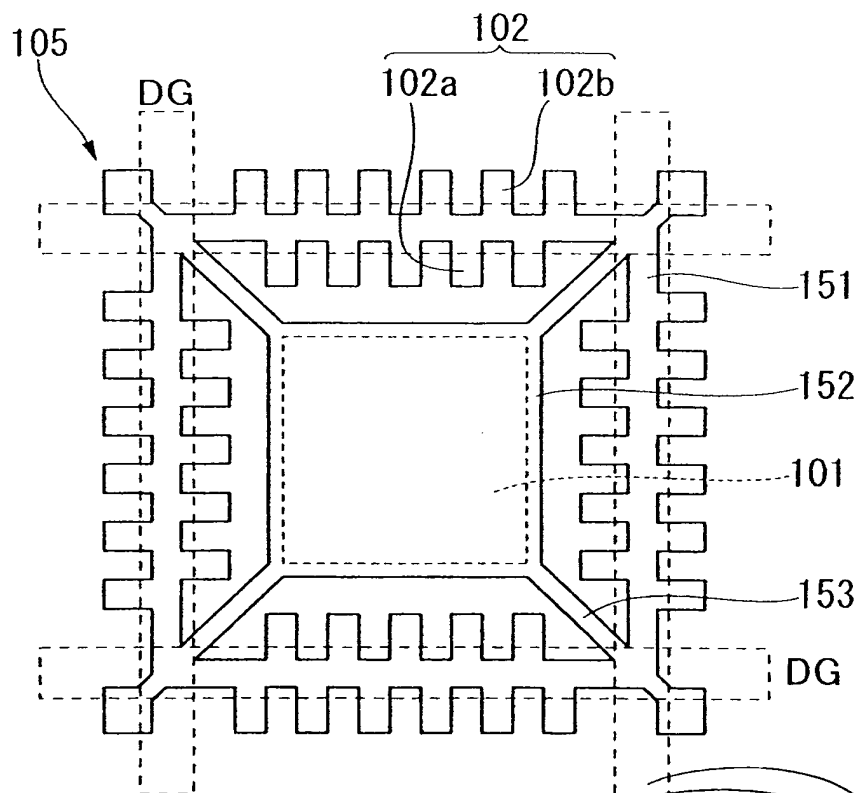


FIG. 17

PRIOR ART

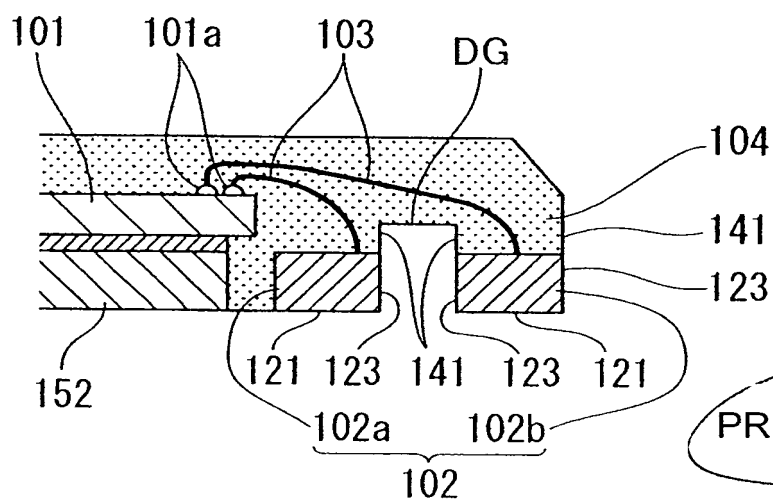
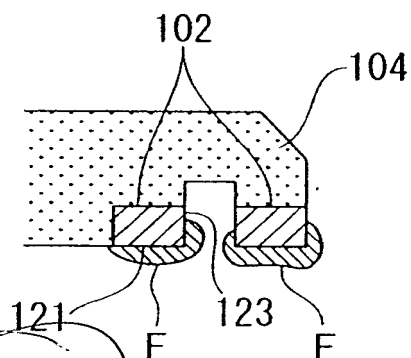
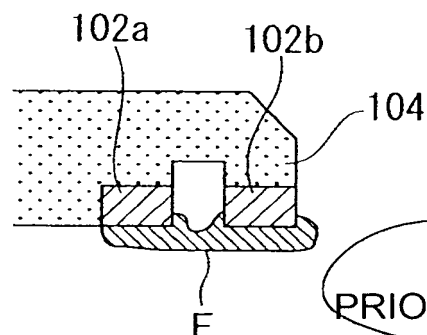


FIG. 18



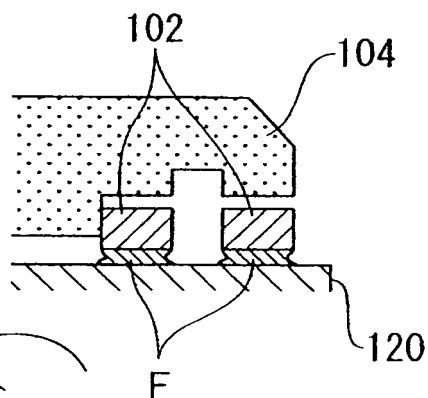
PRIOR ART

FIG. 19A



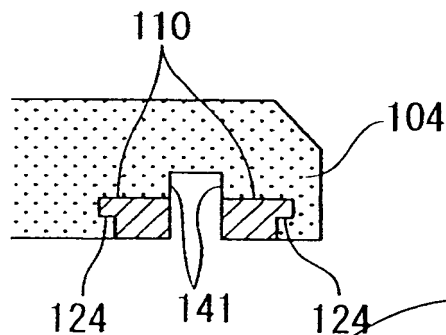
PRIOR ART

FIG. 19B



PRIOR ART

FIG. 19C



PRIOR ART

FIG. 19D